

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A Universal Hard Disk Cartridge capable of containing a hard disk and connecting to a I/O port of a personal computer by an interface cable, comprising:
  - 5 a hard disk connecting board; and
  - a Universal Hard Disk cartridge housing; users can conveniently add and remove the hard drive from the UHDC as if the hard drive is a removable storage media.
- 10 2. The Universal Hard Disk Cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hard disk connecting board further comprising:
  - a female IDE connector, the female IDE connector is designed to have the same pins as the pins of a male IDE connector;
  - 15 a MC-36 female connector for connecting to a MC-36 male connector of the interface cable;
  - a power input jack for providing power to the hard drive; and
  - a printed circuit board, the printed circuit board is designed to have the same width as the width of the hard drive.
- 20 3. The Universal Hard Disk Cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Universal Hard Disk cartridge housing further comprising a ejecting button, the hard drive can be removed from the UHDC by pushing on the ejecting button.
4. The Universal Hard Disk Cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Universal Hard Disk cartridge housing can be from 50% to 100% the length of the printed circuit board.
- 25 5. The Universal Hard Disk Cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Universal Hard Disk cartridge housing has an inside width the same as the width of the hard drive and an inside height the same as the total thickness of the hard drive plus the printed circuit board. The side walls and the top wall of the Universal Hard Disk Cartridge serve as an alignment guide for the hard

drive IDE male connector to make perfect union with the female IDE connector on the printed circuit board as the hard drive slides inside the Universal Hard Disk Cartridge.

6. The Universal Hard Disk Cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein a label can also be applied to the top surface of the hard drive to quickly identify the content of the hard drive.
7. The Universal Hard Disk Cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said interface cable is designed to connect to different IO ports such as USB, Firewire, PCMCIA or other new IO standard by attaching the appropriate interface cables.

400494-2004

5

10